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## Report of the Committee on Miners' Hospitals.

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*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Institute :*

We, your committee, appointed at the meeting of the Institute held at Columbus, on January 10, 1889, to investigate the question of Miners' Hospitals in Pennsylvania, beg leave to report that we find from the preliminary report of the Board of Public Charities of that State for the year 1888 and from personal letters and other sources of information that the Legislature a few years ago by an act established a hospital at Ashland in Schuylkill Co., known as the State Hospital for injured persons in the anthracite coal region of that state. As this is made a special feature of the report we will speak more fully of it further on in our report. We find further that at a more recent date they also established a similar one at Hazleton in Luzerne Co., known as the State Hospital for injured persons of the middle coal fields of the State. The plans for this Hospital had been submitted to the board and only partially approved at the time the report of the committee was transmitted to the Legislature in January last. As to the cost of this Hospital we have no information. We find however, an application filed with the board, asking for an appropriation for the years of 1889 and 1890 as follows: For expenses in operating the Institution, \$10,000; for furnishing, \$10,000; total for two years, \$20,000, which the Board recommends. We find further that the Legislature at its last session passed an act creating a number of like hospitals in other anthracite and bituminous coal regions. The Governor in accordance with this act appointed a commission to secure suitable locations and supervise their erection.

The Hon. J. J. Spearman, of Sharon, Pa., who was appointed one of the commission, in a letter to your committee makes use of substantially the following language. The Legislature of Pennsylvania appropriated \$60,000 for the purpose of erecting hospitals for the injured persons in the bituminous and semi-bituminous coal regions of the State. The act limits the cost of each one at \$20,000. The committee after looking the field over selected locations and invited proposals for the erection of the hospitals and found that they could erect four suitable hospitals out of this fund. He says the hospitals are not elaborate buildings but will be ample for the purpose for which they are intended. The main buildings are to be built of brick, two

stories high with two frame wings each single story. The building will be large enough to accommodate ten patients and are so arranged that they can be readily enlarged if it is found necessary. The Legislature made an additional appropriation of \$50,000 for furnishing and the maintenance of these hospitals for two years, this being equally distributed will make \$12,500 for each, which it is proposed will be divided again using \$5,000 for furniture and fittings and \$7,500 for operating expenses, or \$3,750 per year for each one for care and medical attention, etc.

Mr. Spearman thinks this amount will be ample to meet all the requirements for the next two years. Returning to the report of the Ashland Hospital which has been in operation for several years, the Board of Public Charities submit the application for appropriation from the managers of that institution for the years of 1890 and 1891 as follows: for the year ending May 31st, 1890, for maintenance, \$32,000; for beds and bedding, \$750; for insurance, \$450; for indebtedness for new steam heating, etc., \$2,206.80; for engine and machinery for new laundry, \$2,500; for flooring boards, \$800; for plastering and cementing floors, \$5,000; for dining room and dormitory, \$3,000; for raising roof of two wards, \$6,500; stable improvements, etc., \$1,000; horses, wagons, harness, \$2,000; grading and improving grounds, \$5,000; total for the year 1890, \$61,206.80. For the year ending May 31st, 1891, for maintenance, \$32,000; for bedding and beds, \$750; for insurance, \$450; total for year 1891, \$33,200. Total for two years, \$94,406.80.

For this the Board only recommends the payment of the indebtedness already incurred and in speaking of Hospitals for injured miners they say this is a matter of considerable delicacy, but its great importance seems to require some notice from this Board. Possibly it may not be considered within the jurisdiction of the Board to make any positive recommendations on this subject and yet our silence might be construed into an approval of a policy the wisdom of which is gravely doubted. A few years ago, the Legislature established the hospital at Ashland, intended for those injured in the anthracite coal mines there and in that vicinity, and the legislation of last session took initiatory steps for the location and erection of other like hospitals in other anthracite and bituminous coal regions.

But all of these are to be erected and sustained by appropriations from the general treasury. In other words, the general taxpayers of the State are by this policy required to erect and to maintain hospitals for the injured in a few selected industries. Has the Legislature power to do what it has undertaken to do in this matter? It looks to us like special legisla-

tion for special classes, in violation of both the letter and the spirit of the Constitution. Railroadings; too, is a dangerous business, and many persons are injured in their management and operation. But can people not engaged in that business be lawfully required to take care of those injured therein? If so, then we can see no end or limit to expenditures for such purposes. The experiment of the hospital at Ashland was a new departure, and thus far has proved both expensive and unsatisfactory; and, at the threshold of this new policy, this Board earnestly invites both the people and the authorities of the State to a most careful consideration of this most important matter, before launching forth into this open sea of prospective and doubtful expenditure.

If expenditures must be incurred in caring for persons injured in these dangerous employments, had it not better be done by some proper and general legislative enactments, permitting and authorizing those conducting them to raise the necessary funds from the employments themselves, or from those engaged in them?

We have been prompted to make these suggestions, not only from our own sense of public duty, and of danger in this direction, but also because convinced that the Legislature, as shown by the concurrent resolution of last session, approved May 19th, 1887, had some just apprehension of the dangers from this source. What the committee authorized by this resolution has done, we are not informed, but we are gratified to have this evidence that the importance and dangers of the subject are entertained by others than this Board."

In a personal letter to a member of your committee, the President in referring to the report says that it contains the unanimous views of our Board on the subject of the State Hospital for the care of the injured and sick of a few selected industries. In referring to the Hospital at Ashland, asking for \$94,406.88 for its support during the years of 1890 and 1891 he says "our experience with the management of this Hospital has been very unsatisfactory and we will oppose the organization of any others by the State. We may however recommend the Legislature to make appropriations occasionally for any new Hospital started by private enterprise."

After fully considering the differences of opinion of the above gentlemen who are all so ably informed on the subject, we decided to submit our report for your consideration without offering any recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

ANDREW ROY,  
THOS. B. BANCROFT,  
R. M. HASELTINE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO, Jan. 16th, 1890.

*R. M. Haseltine, Columbus, Ohio :*

DEAR SIR—Mrs. L. E. Cochran hands me your letter in regard to Hospitals, asking me to answer it. In our Hospital we charge for beds, medical attendance, board and everything in wards, \$6.00 ; in rooms they differ in this regard, some are small and not as pleasantly located as others. They range \$8.00, \$9.00, \$10.00 and \$12.00 per week each. I do not know of any Hospital east of the line you speak of (Cleveland to Portsmouth.) With kindest regards to you all,

I am, very respectfully,

R. MONTGOMERY, *Mayor.*

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